

Lomas Bay, Straits of Magalhaens, S. A. Lat. 52° 30' S. Long. 69° 10' W.

Point Lomas, in Peru, S. A. Lat. 17° 32' S. Long. 74° 54' W.

Point Loma, San Diego, California. Lat. 32° 42' N. Long. 117° 15' W.

Loma Hill, a mountain in Western Africa. Lat. 9° 25' N. Long. 9° 51' W.

Do the preceding facts afford a basis for any conjecture respecting the early history of the Lomas family? It is generally contended by writers on onomatology that *all proper names had originally a peculiar and appropriate meaning*. See Salverte's *Essai historique sur les noms d'hommes*, t. i, p. 7. Is the name Lomas derived from any word or combination of words in the English language? No one has ever suggested any such derivation which could be considered as in any degree plausible. The conclusion seems to follow of necessity that the name Lomas is not of English origin. The same considerations lead to the conclusion that it is not of French, or German, or Italian origin. The case is, however, different with Spain. Loma in Spanish signifies *a little hill*, and lomas is the plural of loma, signifying *hills*. It is probable, therefore, that the names Loma and Lomas were early introduced as surnames in Spain, and we can understand why these names were applied to places which were inhabited by Spaniards, or of which the Spaniards were the first explorers. The conclusion naturally follows that the Lomas family in England came from Spain about the year 1400, or perhaps earlier. The names Lomis and Lomisville, applied to villages in Switzerland, render it probable that persons of the same name from Spain, or perhaps from the Lomas family established in England, migrated to Switzerland.

The names Lomazzi and Lomazzo in Northern Italy are also thought to have originated from the same stock. These names differ from Lomax or Lomatz only in substituting an Italian termination.

This will appear from the following examples:

The English name Lawrence becomes Lorenzo in Italian.

"	Morris	"	Maurizio	"
"	Boniface	"	Bonifazio	"
"	Florence	"	Fiorenzo	"
"	Nice	"	Nizza	"
"	Venice	"	Venezia	"